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Exxon-Valdez: Alyeska Marine Terminal Briefing Valdez, Alaska February 20, 1993

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BRIEFING SHEET

AIR POLLUTION FROM THE ALYESKA MARINE TERMINAL IN VALDEZ, ALASKA

- **The Alyeska Marine Terminal releases 240,000 pounds of volatile organic compounds into the air every day and is the largest source of VOC pollution in the United States.**

Yet the terminal's owner, the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, is lobbying vigorously to avoid vapor controls required under the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments.

- **The terminal releases nearly one and a half tons of benzene into the air every day, making it the third largest benzene emitter in the nation.**

But the company insists that 89 percent of the benzene found in the air in Valdez does not come from the oil terminal. They say that snowmobiles, boats, cars and wood stoves are the source.

- **Benzene is a potent carcinogen, and benzene from the terminal exposes 3,500 Valdez residents and thousands of tourists to elevated cancer risks.**

Alyeska found that lifetime cancer risk in Valdez from benzene fumes is 210 in a million -- but the company says benzene from the terminal accounts for about one percent of that risk.

- **Alyeska Pipeline Service Company cites its own study to support its contention that elevated benzene levels in Valdez are not coming from the terminal.**

Yet the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and a peer review committee of top scientists have challenged the validity of the company's study.

(OVER)

•VOC pollution from the terminal includes potent greenhouse gases like methane, as well as ozone destroyers.

One molecule of methane has approximately 25 times more impact on global warming than a molecule of carbon dioxide, but Alyeska has shrugged off this concern.

•The amount of hydrocarbons put into the air by the Alyeska Marine Terminal each year (44,000 tons) is much more than the amount spilled by the tanker Exxon Valdez (36,000 tons).

Tens of millions of dollars and countless hours of work have been spent to prevent another big oil spill in Prince William Sound. Not a penny has been spent to control the vapors that escape when tankers are loaded.

•In the 15 years oil has flowed down the pipeline, roughly 700,000 tons --1.4 billion pounds -- of benzene and other VOC pollution has been released from the Alyeska Marine Terminal.

But the company still refuses to control tanker loading emissions, even though it has been shown that controls are feasible and would be cost-effective.

• Alyeska insists that these emissions do not pose a health threat to workers, explaining that conditions at the terminal meet all applicable occupational health rules.

Yet British Petroleum, Alyeska's majority owner, reported in 1990 that workers at the terminal were routinely exposed to levels of benzene that exceeded the federal Permissible Exposure Limit by as much as 40 times.

It is time to control tanker loading pollution from the Alyeska Marine Terminal. For further information call Greg Winter at (206)671-5257 FAX (206)671-5308